



Successful Local Performances *A brief description*

District/Grantee Name:	Ajo Unified School District
School(s):	Ajo Unified School District
Presenters:	<p>Tracy Taft, Executive Director, International Sonoran Desert Alliance</p> <p>Mimi Phillips, Program Director, ISDA</p> <p>Contact: tracy@isdanet.org</p>
Type of Arts Ed. Advocacy:	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Internal</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mix of Internal/External Advocacy</p>
Brief Description:	<p>Ajo Unified School District (AUSD) has developed a very successful partnership with the International Sonoran Desert Alliance (ISDA), a community-based nonprofit organization in Ajo, to engage students and their families in an after school art program. Together with our full-time art teacher, community artists bring fun arts workshops to our school campus twice a week. This year's first six week series featured Monster Art; the second six week series is Comic Book Art. AUSD and ISDA also partner on public art activities and festive events. We have held community workshops on parade puppetry where intergenerational groups produced large Sonoran Desert critter puppets and peace dove parade kites with 15 foot wing spans. Recently, community artists sketched out 17 designs on our vacant Ajo town plaza display windows. Then we hosted a paint party where AUSD students and their families joined in the fun creating colorful, vibrant murals. The fun, creative energy sparked in these workshops and public art activities has become a remarkable bridge, bringing people together across generations and cultures, to laugh, learn, and create. In the process, many new people—young and old—are engaged in the arts—these are our town's future arts advocates!</p>

